

WRITTEN DECISION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
EXAMINATION AUTHORITY (SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)

International file reference

PCT/EP2004/053154

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 JUN 2006

Re. Point V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statements

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: US-A-5 673 004 (PARK ET AL) 30 September 1997 (1997-09-30)
- D2: US-A-6 144 674 (PERES ET AL) 7 November 2000 (2000-11-07)
- D3: US-B1-6 233 238 (ROMANOWSKI ALEXANDER ET AL) 15 May 2001 (2001-05-15)
- D4: EP-A-0 376 335 (HITACHI, Ltd) 4 July 1990 (1990-07-04)

I.

1. The present application does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT because the object of claims 1 and 13 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
 - 1.1 Document D1 discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document): A circuit for clock synchronization between a first and second network unit (see Abstract), with a clock recovery unit for provision of at least one reference clock signal being provided in the first network unit (see Figure 3, reference symbol 22), with at least one bus provision unit with at least one encoding unit being arranged in the first network unit and an encoding unit is used to form a channel signal from the reference clock signal present in each case (see Figure 3, reference character 23), with a bus signal being formed from at least one channel signal and forwarded to a decoding unit in the second network unit (see bus signal "PD" between elements 22 and 23).

Document D1 thus discloses all features of claim 1. Claim 1 is thus not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

- 1.2 Document D1 discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document): A method for clock synchronization between a first and second network unit (see Abstract), with a clock recovery unit for provision of at least one reference signal being provided in the first network unit (see Figure 3, reference symbol 22), with a channel signal being formed from a reference clock signal (see Figure "PD"), with a bus signal being formed in the network unit from at least one channel signal and forwarded to the second network unit (see bus connection between elements 22 and 23 in Figure 3).

Document D1 thus discloses all the features of claim 13. Claim 13 is thus not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

2. The dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 21 do not contain any features, which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they relate, meet the requirements of the PCT in relation to novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) or inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT), see documents D1 to D4 and corresponding points in the text specified in the search report.

The dependent claims 8, 10-12 and 19-22 appear as obvious to the person skilled in the art in the area of pulse-based multiplexing. It cannot currently be seen that the features contained in these claims would make a contribution to an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

3. It is assumed however that a newly formulated independent device claim, which takes account of the objections pertaining to clarity raised in point VIII and would include the features of claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, as well as corresponding independent method claim, would fulfill the requirements of the PCT with regard to article 33.

II.

1. A document which reflects the prior art described on pages 1 and 2 was not specified in the description (Rule 5.1 a) ii) PCT).
2. Although claims 1 and 13 are entered in two-part form, the features of the identifying part are incorrectly entered in the characterizing part, since they were disclosed in document D1 in connection with the features given in the preamble (Rule 6.3 b) PCT).

III.

1. It can be deduced from the description on page 3 that the following feature/the following features are of significance for the definition of the invention:

(1) Clock signals are sent independently by a number of clock recovery units

(2) There is a coordinated pulse distance and pulse width encoding for simultaneous collision-free real-time transmission of the clock signals

Since independent claim 1 and 13 do not contain these features, they do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in connection with Rule 6.3 b) PCT, that each independent claim must contain all technical features which are significance for the definition of the invention.